Steering Group Minutes

38th Meeting

5th December 2023 19:30 h, by Zoom

1. Present: Toby Sherwin (co-Chair and Secretary), Mike Puleston (co-Chair), Anne Gwynn\*, Pete Jonas. \*Had to leave early.
2. Apologies: Rob Morgan (Treasurer), Belle Heaton. Sue Watson-Bate
3. Minutes of last Meeting and Matters arising (not covered below):
The minutes were accepted without any corrections
4. Treasurer’s report and Membership
At close of business on 1 December 2023, the balance of the account was £561.17. The cash holding was 111.65 making our total holding **£672.82**. Income has comprised £90 in membership fees (9 persons at £10 each as listed below), £12 meeting entrance fees and £6 (presumed donation) by T Sherwin. The only expenditure has been £40 expenses for the guest speaker at the AGM. One problem that has come up in the last financial year is that the number of registered members (64) did not tally with the apparent takings from membership fees (£490). This is not seen as a serious problem given that registration by **TS** is conducted independently of the receipt of payment by **RM**. To date nine members have rejoined and there are four new members for 2024 and **TS** agreed to send out a reminder to members that it was time to rejoin if they wanted to continue supporting SoSD.
5. Facebook and Instagram
There have been no significant issues with the Facebook or Instagram accounts. The Instagram account, run by **SW-B**, now has 291 followers.
6. Talks and speakers
*Future Talks*
a) Dec: 14th Keith Hiscock (MBA) will give a talk on “Devon's Changing Marine Life”.
b) Andrew Cleave will give a talk on coastal wildflowers on 16th Jan 2024.
**MP** emphasised that he was finding it very difficult to get potential speakers to agree to a particular date a long time in advance.
The last Zoom talk of the spring series will take place in May but it was agreed to trial a live talk towards the end of June, possibly in Teignmouth, rather than Torquay. **TS** will investigate the availability of the Heritage Centre and **MP** will check out the museum in Newton Abbot.
The list of previous talks on the SoSD website needs to be updated (Action **TS**).
7. AGM
**TS** reported that the AGM on 9th November had gone off successfully although the number of attendees was down on last year. Thanks are due to **SW-B**, **MP** and **AG** for helping with the organisation. Our guest speaker, Kirsty Andrews gave an excellent talk and at the end was presented with one of our new SoSD beanie hats. **TS** has written up the minutes of the meeting which will be circulated to the Steering Group in due course. A discussion was had about future AGMs and it was agreed that next year it should be held on Zoom along with possibly a report of the results of the SoSD Shoresearch surveys.
8. Field activities
a) A successful Shoresearch Walkover survey was conducted at Meadfoot Beach, Torquay on Sunday 26th November led by **TS** and **BH**. **AG** and one non-member also attended. The observations have been submitted to the DWT database.
b) It was agreed to postpone the proposed Shoresearch at Goodrington Beach, Paignton until Sunday 14th January when LW (Teignmouth Approaches) is 0.63 m at 1424 h. It will be led by **MP** and **TS**. Meet by the steps at just north of the Premier Inn at 1230 h.
c) A nighttime safari was held at Coryton Rocks on Wednesday 22nd November for Steering Group members or by personal invitation only. Five members attended and had a remarkable time. Of particular interest was that many more snakelocks anemones were noticed than has been the case during daylight and that shore crabs were found half way up the sea wall.
d) **TS** has prepared a list of suitable dates for monthly Shoresearches for 2024, which is attached to these minutes. Locations, meeting times and leaders will need to be decided as time goes by.
9. Future activities
Several art / photo exhibitions are planned for next year. The possible exhibition to coincide with the Turn the Tide winter event from February 3rd to 10 at the Shaftesbury Theatre, Dawlish will not take place as all hanging space has already been booked.
a) Sat 20th April to 3rd May. What on Earth exhibition to coincide with Earth Day (22nd April). SoSD have been invited to contribute to the event which will focus on scale in nature from the microscopic to the very large. **TS** is in communication with an organiser (Antony Turner) and will keep **MP** and **AG** informed (and anyone else who declares an interest).
b) Turn the Tide, 7th - 9th June 2024. The intention is to repeat a photo/art exhibition at the Strand Centre to coincide with the event. **TS** to contact Paul at the Centre.
c) October or November 2024. Louise Scammell has suggested that we exhibit at the Old School Centre in South Brent in the Autumn. **TS** has asked her who we should contact.
d) Members of SoSD were invited to join Dawlish Against Plastic in a visit to the Environment Agency’s laboratory at Starcross on 25th January. Unfortunately the number of places were quickly filled and on this occasion only **TS** will be able to attend. He will investigate the possibility for a 2nd visit for SoSD members once he has been.
e) **BH** has offered to show SoSD members round the aquarium at the MBA in Plymouth and **TS** will arrange a date with her and advertise for interested members to come along.
The Steering Group are keen to involve all members of SoSD in these events and will invite them to participate either as curators or contributors to the Art/photo exhibitions.
10. A.O.B.
It was agreed that we need some more members on the Steering Group and **TS** said he would approach Celia Hadow to see if she’s willing to rejoin and **BH** to see if she knows of anyone at the MBA who would like to help.
11. Next meeting
The next meeting will be by Zoom on Tuesday 23rd January 2024 at 1930 h.
12. The meeting closed at 2050 h.

Appendix

Shoresearches for 2024

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | LW time\* | LW ht (m) | Location | Leader(s) |
| Sunday 14th Jan | 1424 | 0.63 | Goodrington | **MP**, **TS** |
| Sunday 11th Feb | 1412 | 0.21 |  |  |
| Sunday 10th Mar | 1226 | 0.26 |  |  |
| Sunday 7th April | 1210 | 0.51 |  |  |
| Saturday 11th May | 1515 | 0.88 |  |  |
| Saturday 8th June | 1425 | 0.91 |  |  |
| Sunday 7th July | 1413 | 1.04 |  |  |
| Saturday 24th Aug | 1615 | 0.68 |  |  |
| Saturday 21 Sept | 1519 | 0.41 |  |  |
| Saturday 19th Oct | 1420 | 0.38 |  |  |
| Saturday 16th Nov | 1211 | 0.62 |  |  |
| Sunday 15th Dec | 1154 | 0.94 |  |  |

\* Times are adjusted for Daylight Saving where appropriate